

## CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A computer operable method, comprising the steps of:

- 2 (a) automatically selecting a file having an icon representing said file  
displayed on a computer screen wherein said file satisfies a first set of criteria,  
4 said first set of criteria defining when said file has not been used recently;  
(b) automatically removing said icon representing said file from said computer  
6 screen;  
(c) automatically placing said icon into a first graphical object wherein said  
8 icon may be re-displayed when a user opens said first graphical object.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said first set of criteria is satisfied when said file  
2 has been selected fewer than a specified number of times in more than a specified  
amount of time.

3. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of:

- 2 (d) keeping a log of files selected in a desktop event log, wherein said files  
selected include program files selected to be executed and data files selected to  
4 perform other operations using those files and wherein said files selected  
comprise files whose selection is initiated by a graphical user interface (GUI).

4. The method of claim 2, wherein step (b) includes:

- 2 (b.1) prompting a user for a user response; and  
(b.2) removing said icon representing said file in response to said user  
4 response.

5. The method of claim 2, wherein a user may set a first property associated with a specific file to prevent said first set of criteria from being satisfied for said specific file.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein a user may set said first property for a group of files.

7. A program storage medium readable by a computer, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the computer to perform method steps for automatically removing an icon representing a file that is infrequently used by a graphical user interface (GUI), said method steps comprising:

- (a) automatically selecting a file having an icon representing said file displayed on a computer screen wherein said file satisfies a first set of criteria, said first set of criteria defining when said file has not been used recently;
- (b) automatically removing said icon representing said file from said computer screen;
- (c) automatically placing said icon into a first graphical object wherein said icon may be re-displayed when a user opens said first graphical object.

8. The program storage medium of claim 7, wherein said first set of criteria is satisfied when said file has been selected fewer than a specified number of times in more than a specified amount of time.

9. The program storage medium of claim 8, further comprising the step of:

(d) keeping a log of files selected in a desktop event log, wherein said files selected include program files selected to be executed and data files selected to perform other operations using those files and wherein said files selected comprise files whose selection is initiated by a graphical user interface (GUI).

10. The program storage medium of claim 8, wherein step (b) includes:

- (b.1) prompting a user for a user response; and
- (b.2) removing said icon representing said file in response to said user response.

11. The program storage medium of claim 8, wherein a user may set a first property associated with a specific file to prevent said first set of criteria from being satisfied for said specific file.

12. The program storage medium of claim 11, wherein a user may set said first property for a group of files.

13. A graphical user interface (GUI) that is implemented on a computer, comprising:

- (a) means for automatically selecting a file having an icon representing said file displayed on a computer screen wherein said file satisfies a first set of criteria, said first set of criteria defining when said file has not been used recently;
- (b) means for automatically removing said icon representing said file from said computer screen;

8 (c) means for automatically placing said icon into a first graphical object  
wherein said icon may be re-displayed when a user opens said first graphical  
10 object.

14. The graphical user interface of claim 13, wherein said first set of criteria is  
2 satisfied when said file has been selected fewer than a specified number of times  
in more than a specified amount of time.

15. The graphical user interface of claim 14, further comprising:

2 (d) means for keeping a log of files selected in a desktop event log, wherein  
said files selected include program files selected to be executed and data files  
4 selected to perform other operations using those files and wherein said files  
selected comprise files whose selection is initiated by said graphical user  
6 interface (GUI).

16. The graphical user interface of claim 14, wherein said means for removing  
2 includes:

(b.1) prompting a user for a user response; and

4 (b.2) removing said icon representing said file in response to said user  
response.

17. The graphical user interface of claim 14, wherein a user may set a first property  
2 associated with a specific file to prevent said first set of criteria from being  
satisfied for said specific file.

2 property for a group of files.